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# THE GORDONS OF NETHERMUIR

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## Gordons of Nethermuir.

THE lands of Nethermuir in the parish of New Deer were held for nearly three centuries, down to 1872, by a branch of the Gordons of Haddo. The main line of Nethermuir Gordons was never very important, but its offshoot, the Gordons of Auchleuchries, produced the Russian General, Patrick Gordon; the Gordons of Coldwells are now represented at Laskowitz, West Prussia; and on the female side Nethermuir claims, through the Gordons of Buthlaw, the Greek General, Thomas Gordon.

The earliest attempt to trace the family occurs in the Balbithan MS., as follows:—

“David Gordon of Nethermuir married the goodman of Achencrives daughter Maitland, with whom he begat two Sons and Daughters, viz., Gordon of Nethermuir and James Gordon of Knaven. Their Father dyed . His Son Gordon of Nethermuir married the Parson of Kinkells daughter with whom he begat five sons, viz., George Gordon of Nethermuire, Gilbert Gordon, now of Knownen. Sir James Gordon of Knownen married Elizabeth Jamieson alias Johnston with whom he begat two sons and daughters, viz., Patrick and Thomas Gordons, and a daughter who married William Gordon fair of Tillyangus.”

The next account of the family is contained in a MS. pedigree of 1670, now in Gordon Castle, as follows:—

"The Genealogie of David Gordon of Nethermuir, 3d sone to James, 4th Laird of Haddo, by Margery Menzies.

"This David married Janet Maitland, daughter to the Deane of Abd., brother to Achincreeve, by whom he had 3 sones—Patrick of Nethermuir; James of Knaven; Jhon, who went to Polland; two daughters—Jean married to Jhon Bennerman of Aslide; Janet married to Patrick Ferqhar.

"Patrick of Nethermuir married Ketharine Lumsdene [daughter to the?] person of Kinkel, sone to Thomas, Laird of Cudlaine, by whom he had 5 sones and 3 daughters—his eldest, George of Nethermuire, who married the Laird of Achinacoy his daughter Buchan; 2d Gilbert who married — Bildardoe; 3d Jhon, who married Mary Ogilvie, sole daughter and heir to James Ogilvie of Blarak and Auchluichries; 4th Mr Thomas, who married Janet Lumsden; 5 James who married Jean Haitle. The eldest daughter, Margery, married to Thomas Forbes of Achrydie; the 2d, Anna, married to Mr James Gordon of Buthlie; 3d Jannet, married to Patrick Gordon of Cults. All these, except the youngest sone, James, God hath blissen with a numerous and hopeful issue."

The next genealogist to tackle the Nethermuir group was the Rev. Theodore Gordon (1701-79), minister of Kennethmont, but he did little more than expand the Balbithan notes.

In 1847, James Paterson published a brief account of the family in his "History of Ayr" (i., 220-1), based apparently on information from the laird of that period, John Taylor Gordon, who had transferred his main interest and his residence to an estate in Ayrshire. Paterson's account runs thus:—

"Gordon of Newton Lodge, parish of Newton upon Ayr.

"In this parish the whole territory, save some ten acres, belongs to the community. The only family is that of

"John Taylor Gordon of Newton Lodge and Blackhouse in this county and Nethermuir in Aberdeenshire, who has resided here since 1832. Mr Gordon is descended of an ancient and highly honourable and influential family, the Gordons of Methlic and Haddo, ancestors of the Earl of Aberdeen, who have carried down the name in direct male descent since the 12th century, and who have all along acted a prominent and distinguished part in the affairs of the country.

"I. David Gordon of Nethermuir—part of the estate of Haddo—born about 1540, was the fourth son of James Gordon of Methlic and Haddo, by Marjory, daughter of Sir Thomas Menzies of Pitfodils. David was succeeded by

"II. Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir, who had three sons

"\_\_\_\_\_, his successor.

"Patrick and James.

"III. — Gordon of Nethermuir was born about 1600. He was fined as an anti-Covenanter in 1640. He was succeeded by

"IV. Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir, who married Anna Strachan, and had issue

Patrick

John

William

"V. John Gordon of Nethermuir, his second son, succeeded. He married Eliza Gordon, and had issue,

George

Anna

Elizabeth

"VI. George Gordon of Nethermuir, dying without issue, he was succeeded about 1731 by the grandson of James, third son of Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir.

"VII. John Gordon of Nethermuir. He had an only son,

"VIII. William Gordon of Nethermuir, who had two sons

John

Maxwell

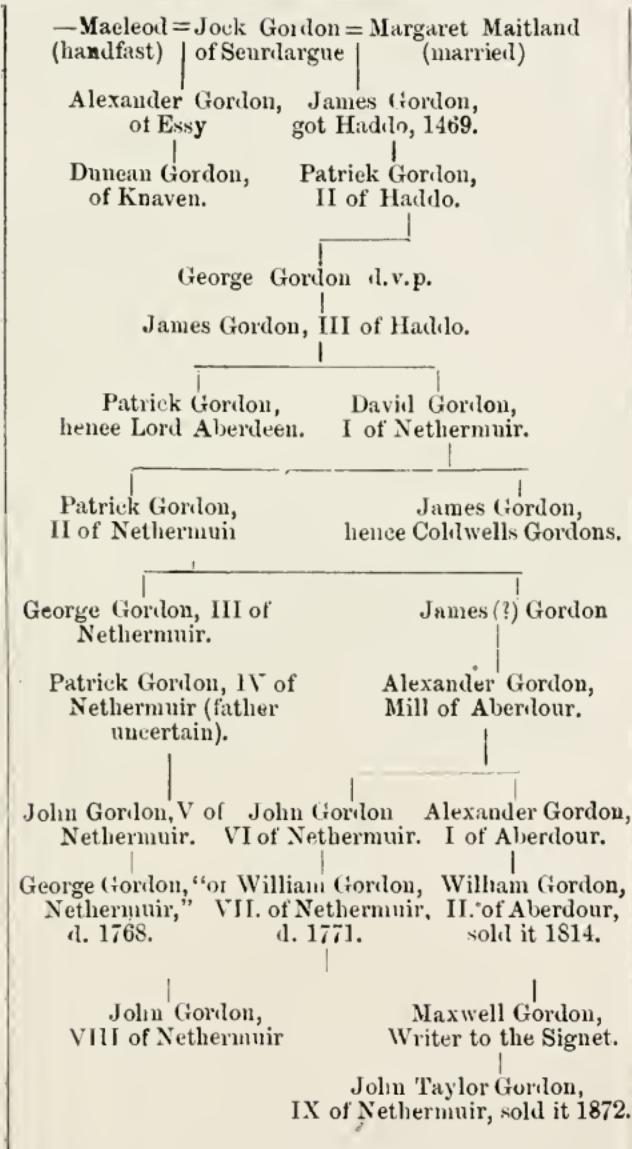
"IX. John Gordon of Nethermuir, who, dying without issue, was succeeded by his nephew, son of Maxwell Gordon, by Miss Taylor, daughter of John Taylor of Blackhouse, W.S. in Edinburgh, the present proprietor.

ARMS—Azure three Boars' Heads, couped "Or within a Bordure Coupee Argent and Or Crest, a Dexter Hand holding an Arrow Bendways. Motto—'Majores Sequor'."

Out of these skimpy materials and the amount of historical material that has been published since Paterson wrote his book in 1847, one is now able to build up quite an authenticated account of the Nethermuir Gordons. There are, however, several lacunæ, which have not been filled up, the chief of them being as follows:—

1. Who was the father of Patrick, IV. of Nethermuir?
2. Who was the grandfather of John, VII. of Nethermuir?
3. What was the "misfortune" and mystery attaching to George Gordon (died 1768), who was (nominally, at any rate) VI. of Nethermuir?
4. Which Gordon of Nethermuir was the mother of James Perry (1756-1821), the famous London editor?

The descent of the Nethermuir Gordons seems to be as follows:—



### **David Cordon, I. of Nethermuir.**

David Gordon is given by the old genealogists as a son of James Gordon, III. of Haddo. Mr W. A. Lindsay, Windsor Herald, in his account of the Earls of Aberdeen in the "Scots Peerage," speaks (i., 85) of David as "supposed ancestor" of the Gordons of Nethermuir. We have, however, the weight of a long-standing genealogical tradition indicating a descent from the Haddo Gordons in (1) the Balbithan MS.; (2) a grant of arms in 1683 to Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir, the Lord Lyon describing him as "lawfullie descended of the familie of Haddo;" while (3) Lord Fountainhall (1646-1722) describes Patrick Gordon, younger of Nethermuir, who was lost in the wreck of the "Gloucester" in 1682, as "President Haddo's cousin."

James, III. of Haddo, who died before May 23, 1582, married Marjory Menzies. Paterson says his son David was born about 1540.

I think David of Nethermuir may be identical with David Gordon, in Knaven, who was one of the jury in the special service of Mr Robert Maitland, nephew of Mr Robert Maitland, Dean of Aberdeen, on Oct. 6, 1584 (Littlejohn's "Aberdeenshire Sheriff Court," i., 310). Knaven had been in the possession of another branch of Gordons, the descendants of David's ancestor, Jock of Scurdargue, by his "hand-fasted" wife, Macleod.

The next and only other reference we have to him is under date Oct. 24, 1594, when "David Gordon of Nethermuir," gave caution to Parliament, sitting at Aberdeen—Thomas Menzies of Durne being surety for him in £100—to keep ward in Aberdeen and one mile therat till freed by the King, and in the meantime not to repair to His Majesty's presence or place of residence with-

out his license ("Privy Council Register," v., 184).

David seems to have died in 1595, for that is the date on the "Nethermuir Tomb" in the churchyard of Old Deer. The tomb is a square enclosure to the right of the entrance to the graveyard, and it contains several stones which composed the old church belfry. Mr Henderson ("Aberdeenshire Epitaphs," i., 401) says that "when the church was demolished about 1839, the tomb was erected, many stones for the purpose being carted from Nethermuir. Amongst these was a triangular slab of granite, which is now fixed over the doorway. It has at the top the motto "Sveir Nocht," below which is a shield showing the Gordon Arms, flanked by the initials D. G. and the date 1595. The name David Gordon follows, underneath which are three ornaments, one of which is a sand-glass. Below is a shield displaying the Mowat Arms, flanked by the initials I. M. This block rests upon a red sandstone lintel, which is believed to have formed part of the kirk belfry. It bears the letters in bold form K. and A.; W. E. M. L., representing William, Earl Marischal, Lord Keith and Altrie, who was patron of the parish.

According to the Balbithan MS., David married "the goodman of Auchencruive's daughter, — Maitland." The 1670 MS. calls her Janet Maitland, "daughter to the Deane of Aberdeen." The Dean was Robert Maitland, and it was in connection with a service to the latter's nephew, Robert, that David Gordon of Nethermuir was on the jury in 1584. He had, according to the 1670 MS., three sons and two daughters:—

1. Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir.
2. James Gordon of Knaven. The Balbithan MS. calls him "Sir James of Knaven," and says he married Elizabeth

Jamieson, "alias Johnston," and had two sons and a daughter:—

(1) Patrick Gordon.

(2) Thomas Gordon.

(3) John Gordon, I. of Coldwells.

(4) —— Gordon, married William Gordon, firar of Tillyangus. This may be the William Gordon of Tillyangus, who married on Nov. 26, 1641, Marjory Gordon, "sister to John Gordoun in Tillideask, now called Wells" (Ellon Register). William Gordon of Tillyangus in 1640 got a patent to raise a company of soldiers for the Government. He made a sensational attack at an inn on the Muir of Rhynie on Father Blakhal while the latter was riding from Strathbogie to Cromar ("Brieffe Narration of the Services done to Three Noble Ladyes," pp. 105-107). Hugh Gordon and John Gordon, grandson of James Gordon of Tillyangus, emigrated to Vangroba, in Poland, in 1636.

3. John Gordon, "went to Polland."

4. Jean Gordon, married John Banner-man of Aslide.

5. Jane Gordon, married Patrick Far-quhar.

#### **Patrick Cordon, of Nethermuir.**

Although the Balbithan omits his Christian name, Patrick Gordon was the son of David, I. of Nethermuir. Comparatively little is known about him; the following bald items serving to trace his appearances in documentary evidence:—

1602, May 5.—Sasine was granted to Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir on the lands of Knaven and Nethermuir.

1602, May 14.—Sasine was granted to Katherine Lumsden, spouse to Patrick Gordon of Knaven, on the lands of Nethermuir, with pertinents ("Aberdeen Sasines")

1608, Nov. 9.—Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir witnessed at Aberdeen the granting of a charter by George Gordon of Haddo ("Great Seal").

1611, Sept. 1.—Obligation by Andrew Hill in Kirkhill of Benvells to Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir is recorded in the "Aberdeen Minute Book of Registrations."

1611, Nov. 7.—A bond was granted by Gilbert Simson and others to Patrick Gordon (*Ibid.*).

1611, Nov. 27.—A bond was granted to Patrick Gordon by John Youngson in Auchmaledie, as principal, and William Craig, there, with William Youngson, there, as cautioners, for a loan; it was recorded Aug. 8, 1615 (*Ibid.*).

1612, Nov. 12.—Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir brought an action against Robert Sinclair in Auchnagatt (Littlejohn's "Aberdeenshire Sheriff Court," ii., 186).

1614, July 8.—A bond was granted by John Quhytcors in Carshill of Lytill Auchreddie for the price of oxen, to Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir: it was recorded Aug. 8, 1615 ("Aberdeen Minute Book of Registrations").

1615, March 19 and 20.—A bond for a loan was granted to Patrick Gordon by Thomas Sinclair and others (*Ibid.*).

1622.—Assignment by Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir to George Gordon of Gight (*Ibid.*).

1623, January 30.—The King confirmed the charter of George Gordon, senior of Gight, by which he sold to Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir and George Gordon, his eldest son ("filius primogenitus") the lands of Cuikbirnes, with mill, and the pendicle called Tulliebreikis, in Logie Buchan, the manor lands of Menye, and the mill and lands called Leytoun, Coithill, Cowhill, and Alterseat in Belhelvie which had been sold in Aberdeen Nov. 14, and Dec., 1622, in

presence of John Gordon in Petten and William Gordon of Chapelton ("Great Seal").

1624, May.—Patrick Gordon, of Nethermuir, assigned to George Gordon, elder of Gight, various bonds granted to Nethermuir by (1) Robert Innes of Invermarkie, Adam Duff of Ardbrek, and Alexander Jaffray, burgess of Aberdeen, in 1615; (2) by Alexander Cuming of Culter and others, in 1621; (3) by Robert Keith of Auldmad and others in 1624; (4) by Patrick Farquhar, burgess of Aberdeen [his brother-in-law?] and others in 1618 ("Registration Book, Aberdeen Sheriff Court," old series, vi., folios 115-118).

Patrick Gordon died before 1630. The Balbithan MS. states that he married "the Parson of Kinkell's daughter." She was Katherine Lumsden, and, as we have seen, she was Patrick's wife in May, 1602. After his death, she married Mr Richard Maitland of Auchencruive, her marriage contract with whom was signed at Nethermuir, March 9, 1630. Some money which Mrs Maitland possessed at the date of the contract was to be invested at the sight of George Gordon of Nethermuir, and Mr William Lumsden, advocate in Aberdeen, both of whom, together with John Gordon, a brother of the former, were witnesses to the signing of the deed. She was again a widow by Feb. 26, 1643, on which date she brought an action against Richard Maitland of Auchencruive, son and heir of the said Richard (Littlejohn's "Aberdeenshire Sheriff Court," iii., 19).

Patrick Gordon was well off, for his children were the creditors of several borrowers in 1633 ("Book of Annual-rentaris," Spalding Club Misc. iii.). In 1634, the "bairnes of umquhill Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir" were the creditors of Patrick Wood of Little Ardo to the extent of 500 merks (*Ibid.* iii., 132).

The Balbithan MS. says that Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir had five sons, but it names only two; the Theodore Gordon MS. names the five sons and gives three daughters in the following order—George, Gilbert, John, Thomas, James, Marjorie, Anna, and Janet. There were, however, six, if not seven, sons, and I fancy they came in the following order:—

1. George Gordon of Nethermuir.

2. Patrick Gordon. His existence is proved by one of the “*Inquisitiones Generales*,” which gives “*Jacobus Gordon, hæres Patricii Gordon (filii legitimi quoniam Patricii Gordon) fratris,*” under date June 21, 1643.

3. John Gordon, “third lauchfull sone to wmquhile Patrick Gordoun of Nathirmuir” (“Particular Register of Sasines for Aberdeenshire,” vol. viii., fol. 184-6). He was a major in 1634, whereas his brother James was still under a “tutor” (“Spalding Club Misc.,” iii., 102). He married about 1633, Mary Ogilvy, daughter and heiress of James Ogilvy of Blerack, by his wife, Marjory Gordon, daughter of George Gordon, III. of Coclarachie. Through Marie Ogilvie he got the lands of Auchleuchries, and became the father of General Patrick Gordon (1635-99), the famous soldier in the Russian army. The estate of Auchleuchries remained in his descendants’ possession till 1726, when it was sold by the General’s great grandson, James Gordon, to another Gordon who founded the Gordons of Balmuir.

4. Thomas Gordon. In 1633 Mr William Lumsden, advocate in Aberdeen, “one of the curatores of Thomas Gordon, lauchfull bairn to umquhill Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir,” declared that Thomas was the creditor of Robert Innes of Balvenie for the sum of 500 merks (“Book of Annual-rentaris:” Spalding Club Misc., iii., 101).

Thomas followed his brother John (Littlejohn's "Sheriff Court," iii., 20) to Auchleuchries, for "Mr" Thomas Gordon in Auchleuchries, "as assignee of James Gordon, lawful son of the late Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir," appears on July 28, 1643, as "heir of the late Patrick Gordon, his brother german." A bond for 1000 merks, dated at Aberdeen, 2 June, 1626, granted by William Gordon of Brodland as principal, and Alexander Gordon of Easter Garrie, his brother german, in favour of Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir, "in name and behalf and as father, tutor guyder, and lawful administrator to Patrick Gordon his son," was ordained to be registered. One of the witnesses to the bond was Mr William Straquhan, minister of Daviot, probably a relation of Anne Strachan who married Patrick Gordon, IV. of Nethermuir. Thomas was involved with a gang of men in an attack on Alexander Strachan of Glenkindie, probably a relation of his sister-in-law. Strachan was a Covenanter, and on March 6, 1649, Parliament considered his supplication against "Mr Thomas Gordon in Auchtileuthres," John Gordon of Auchtileuthres, and thirty one other men. They had raided Strachan's house at Auchnagatt, "haveing brokin vp with foir hameris the vtter and inner zettis, doores, kistis, cofferis, lokfast places, and plundered the haill moveable gudis, money, and silver work being thereintill, with the meill malt and so on." Parliament remitted the supplication to the Judge Ordinary ("Acts of Parliament," vi., part ii., p. 340). Thomas Gordon is described in a sasine given to General Patrick Gordon, December 29, 1670, as "in Turnalow" ("Tornabowe?") and as "umquhill" ("Particular Register of Sasines for Aberdeenshire," vol. vii., fol. 232-234) The 1670 MS. says he mar-

ried Janet Lumsden, and the above sasine was given in presence of his son,

James Gordon (*ibid.*), of whom I know nothing more.

5. Gilbert Gordon, whom the Balbithan MS. describes as "now of Knownen." On May 11, 1631, John Gordon of Haddo brought an action against Gilbert Gordon in Knaven, Thomas Lumsden, proprietor of Kinellar, being cautioner. It referred to houses and buildings as well as peats of the arrestee's occupation of Barrack (Littlejohn's 'Aberdeenshire Sheriff Court,' ii., 320). Like his brother George, he was an anti-Covenanter. Spalding tells us that in November, 1643, the Laird of Haddo, called upon to pay a fine of 20,000 for an attack on the Jaffrays, and hearing that the Estates "war to send forces to uplift the same perforce, went about legallie to defend him self, and maid ane assignatioun of his haill goodis, geir, debtis, soumes of money and vtheris pertening till him to his cusing, Gilbert Gordoun of Knaven ("Trubles," ii., 296). On Tuesday, December 19, "Dauid [sic] Gordon of Knaven compeirit befoir this committee [of war] and producet" the assignation, "and maid intimation thereof to them, and tuke instruments thairvpone in tua notaris handis" (*Ibid.* ii., 298). Referring to the same incident under date January 17, 1644, Spalding again speaks of "Dauid Gordoun" (*Ibid.* ii., 305). According to the Theodore Gordon MS., Gilbert "married \_\_\_\_\_ Bildarrow." The 1670 MS. calls it "Bildardoe." A Gilbert Gordon got a tack of the Croft of Bridgehouse in the parish of Deer, May 25, 1696 (Fordyce MS. belonging to the New Spalding Club).

6. James Gordon. As "lauchfull bairn to umquhill Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir," he figures in 1633 as creditor of Sir William Keith of Ludquharne, "Knicht," for the-

sum of 1000 merks, while James Hackat in Carnetoun and John Hackat, his son, owed him 2000 merks ("Spalding Club Misc.," iii., 101). On June 14, 1643, James Gordon is returned as heir of Patrick, his brother, who is described as "filius legitimus quondam Patricii Gordoun de Nethermuir." On July 20, 1654, James Gordon got a grant from his brother John of the "eistsyde of the toune and landis of Westertoun of Auchleuchries;" sasine given Feb. 12, 1655 ("Particular Register of Sasines for Aberdeenshire," vol. xvii., fol. 421-423). On January 14, 1655, a James Gordon in Auchleuchries was excommunicated by the Presbytery of Ellon for Popery (Mair's "Ellon"). He is probably the James Gordon residing at Westertoun of Auchleuchries in 1683 and known as "London James," who was charged by the Ellon Presbytery in 1683 as a delinquent with two women (Mair's "Presbytery of Ellon," p. 182). He kept in close touch with his distinguished nephew, General Patrick Gordon, whom he met in 1686 in Aberdeen and the north. On January 11, 1692, James Gordon "of Westertoun," along with John Gordon of Nethermuir and Patrick Gordon of Culz, was constituted one of his "procters" by the General ("Diary," 178).

The Theodore Gordon MS. says he married "Jean Hartlie." The 1670 MS. calls her "Haitlie." Both surnames seem quite unknown in Aberdeenshire: so he may have found the lady in London. She was dead by January 31, 1695, when General Patrick Gordon entered in his diary the words—"I condoled with my uncle [name not given, but indexed as James] on the death of his wife, and thanked him for not forgetting me and mine in his will ("Tagebuch," ii., 505). In the same year, 1695, Macfarlane ("Genealogical Collections," ii., 35) says that James Gordon

"of Westerton" married Elizabeth Leslie, then only fifteen years old, daughter of Patrick Leslie, who lived at Fyvie, and who was the fifth son of James Leslie, IV. of Wartle. The marriage is not given in Colonel Leslie's "Family of Leslie," (iii., 302). In 1696, James Gordon, gentleman, was tenant of Westerton of Auchleuchries: his wife is given as Elizabeth Leslie ("Poll Book"). Paterson calls him "third son." The 1670 MS. says that all Patrick's sons, "except the youngest sone James, God hath blissen with a numerous hopeful issue," and the Theodore Gordon MS. says the same. This is rather borne out by the statement in the "Tagebuch" (ii., 505) that James put Gen. Patrick and his children in his will. But Paterson ("History of Ayr") gives James as the grandfather of John Gordon who succeeded to Nethermuir, and whose father was undoubtedly Alexander, Mill of Aberdour, founder of the Gordons of Aberdour. I cannot clear up these statements at present.

7. Marjorie Gordon married, according to the Theodore Gordon MS., "Thomas Forbes of Achreydie." On Oct. 21, 1628, sasine was granted to Thomas Forbes, son to Mr Walter Forbes of Meikle Auchrydie and Marjorie Gordon, his future spouse, on the lands of Auchmaldy, Bedleham, and Meikle Auchrydie ("Aberdeen Weekly Journal," Jan. 31, 1913). Thomas Gordon of Meikle Auchredie figures in a grain action of 1643 (Littlejohn's "Sheriff Court" iii., 17). She had two sons—William and George (Lumsden's "Forbes Family").

8. Anne Gordon, "lauchfull bairn to umquhill Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir," was the creditor in 1633 of Mr William Keith of Brownntown to the extent of 1000 merks, Mr William Lumsden, advocate 'n Old Aberdeen, being her tutor ("Book of Annual-rentaris," Spalding Club Misc. iii.,

102). She and her sister Janet were creditors of Sir Thomas Urquhart of Cromarty, "equallie betwixt them," to the extent of 500 merks (*Ibid.* iii., 102). According to the Theodore Gordon MS., she married James Gordon "of Buthlie," that is Buthlaw. On Sept. 10, 1650, John Gordon of Auchleuchries granted to "Mr James Gordon of Greinmyre and Annas Gordon, his spouse, the Mains of Auchleuchries, redeemably by payment of 2500 merks Scots" ("Particular Register of Sasines for Aberdeenshire," vol. xiv., fol. 437-439). On June 15, 1665, he is described as "Master James Gordon, now of Buthlay" (*Ibid.*, vol. iv., fol. 81, 82), which he bought in 1662. He was the ancestor of the famous General (Thomas Gordon) in the Greek Army.

9. Janet Gordon. As "lauchfull bairn to umquhill Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir," she and her sister were creditors for several sums of money in 1633, and she herself was creditor of James Cheyne of Arnadye to the extent of 1000 merks ("Spalding Club Misc.," iii., 101). On March 15, 1635, she and her tutor testamentary, Mr William Lumsden, advocate in Aberdeen, brought an action against James Buchan in Mains of Arnage, Gilbert Symsone in Carnenadely, George Smith at the Mill of Towie, and James Cheyne of Arnage for his interest. Cheyne and others were liable to the pursuer in the sum of 1000 merks, conform to a bond dated 29 May, 1632, and registered in the Sheriff Court Books on August 25, 1635 (1632?), on which the rents due to Cheyne by his tenants had been arrested (Littlejohn's "Sheriff Court," ii., 405). The Theodore Gordon MS. says that she married Patrick Gordon of Cults, Kennethmont. She got sasine in Cults, February 7, 1650. She had

of Nethermuir, was a brother, he must have been born after that date. It is all very puzzling.

I do not know when Patrick succeeded to the estate, but he was laird in 1683, in which year a blazoning of a "coat armorial" appertaining to Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir was granted by the Lord Lyon as follows:—

"To ALL and SUNDRIE whom it efeers I, Sir Alexander Areskine of Cambo Knight and Barronet Lyon King of Armes CONSIDERING That be the Twentie one Act of the third sessione of the second parliament of our dread Soveraigne Lord CHARLES THE SECOND be the Grace of GOD, KING OF SCOTLAND England France and Ireland Defender of the Faith, I am Impowered to visite the wholl Armes of Noblemen Prelats Barons and Gentlemen within this Kingdome And to distinguish them with congruent differences And to matriculat the same in my books and Registers. And to give Armes to vertuous and weel deserveing Persons And Extracts of All Armes Expressing the Blazoning thereof under my hand & seall of office which Register is thereby ordained to be respected as the true and unrepealable Rule of All armes and Bearings in Scotland To Remaine with the Lyons Office as a Publict Register of the Kingdom,

"THERFOR Conform to the tenor of the said act of Parliament I Testifie and make knownen That the Coat Armour appertaining and belonging TO PATRICK GORDON of NETHERMUIR Lawfullie descended of the familie of HADDO (The present Representer wherof is the Right Honourable George Earle of Aberdein Lord High Chancellor of Scotland) and approuyen of and confirmed be me to him Is matriculat in my said publict Register upon the day and date of these presents. And is thus Blazoned viz. The said PATRICK GORDON of NETHERMUIRE for his Atchievement and Ensigne

Armoriall Bears Azir Three Boars heads Or,  
Armed and Langued proper, within a bordur  
parted per fesse argent &c Or above the  
shield ane Helmet ansuorable to his degree  
with a mantle gules doubled argent next (for  
his crest) over a wreath of his colours is a  
dexter hand issueing out of a cloud and  
throwing a dart all proper with this motto  
in ane Escroll Majores Sequor which coat  
above blazoned I declare to be the said  
PATRICK GORDON of NETHERMURE  
his Coat and Bearing.

"IN TESTIMONIE whereof I have  
subscryved this Extract with my Hand  
and have caused append my seall of  
office thereto. GIVEN ATT EDINBURGH  
The Sexteinth day of March And of our said  
soveraigne Lord's Reigne The Threttie fyft  
year 1683—

(Signed) ALEXR. ARESKINE LYON."

It is possible that Patrick "propelled" his estate. General Patrick Gordon speaks in 1686 of "Nethermuir older and younger." When the Poll Tax was taken up in 1696, "Patrick Gordon of Nethermoor" appears, "his part of the valued rent of Nethermoor being £153;" his spouse, Anna Strachan, and "William Gordon, his sone in familia," figuring at six shillings each. "John Gordon of Nythermoor" appears immediately afterwards: "the said John Gordon hath of valued rent, in Nythermoor, £153, and in Old Mad, £266 13s 4d, extending to £419 13s 4d ("Poll Book," ii., 10).

I have not discovered when Patrick Gordon died. He was alive on Aug. 5, 1704, when he was appointed a Commissioner of Supply for Aberdeenshire ("Acts of Parliament of Scotland," xi., 146).

Patrick Gordon married Anna Strachan, who was alive in 1696 ("Poll Book," ii., 10). She was granted sasine on the lands of

of Auchleuchries in favour of her son-in-law, John Gordon, then of Auchleuchries (*Ibid.* ii., 478).

1640, June 9—Nethermuir was an anti-Covenanter, for in this month General Monro “send out paireis of soldiouris and brocht in to Abirdein — Irving of Fornet, [Robert] Irving of Fedderet, Schir John Gordoun of Haddoche, — Donaldson of Hiltoune, Schir Alexr. Cumming of Culst, Alexr. Wdny of Ochterellon, [Thomas] Burnet of Campbell, [George] Gordon of Nether-mvre, and diuerss vtheris knowne ante covenanteris” (Spalding’s “Trubles,” i., 283). On June 10 Monro and Earl Marischal held a council of war in the Tolbooth, and Nethermuir with some of the other prisoners were “all ordanit to go lodge in Mr Henrie Buchan’s houss that nicht and prepair them selffis to go for Edinbrugh vpone the morne: and in the meintyme [the Covenanting authorities] setis a strait guard about their lodging, that none sould go in nor out without licens, whiche thir gentlemen wes compellit to obey. Vpon the morne [June 11] thay took thair leive from Abirdein, leaving thair freindis with sorie hartis. Thay war gardit and convoyit be soldiouris as throt-cutteris and mvtheraris, quhairat thay war displeissit, bot culd not mend it. The first nicht they cam to Cowy, and sua furth to Edinbrugh, convoyit be ilk schirefdome from schire to schire. . . . Howsone thay cam to Edinbrugh, thay war all wairdit in the tolbuith, and schortlie our tounes men ar first brocht in befoir the Tables. Thay ar accusit as contrarie to the good causs. Thay maid there owne ansueris, whiche wes not weill hard, quhairvpone thay are committit agane to waird, bot irrespect of the laird of Geicht his seiknes and of Thomas Nicolsonse his seiknes, thay get libertie, and wes confynit in the toun, whair old Geicht departit this lyf, yit wes not fynit as is said. Efter examinatioun of our burgessis, the laird of

Culter, the laird of Ochterellon, Fornet, Campbell, Nethermvre, thay war brocht in and accusit, and returnit bak to waird, whair ane and all wes forsit to stay during the space of six monethis, to thair gryt displesour and hurt to thair helth, with gryte charges and expensis. At last it pleissit the estaites to fyne thame." Nethermuir was fined 300 merks (*Ibid.* i., 285-6).

1641—George Gordon, "of Nethirmure," appears in a roll of delinquents ("Privy Council Register," 2nd series, vol. 7, p. 510).

1642, August 9—The King granted to Alexander Lindsay, "aliquando de Brigfuird," and Jean Fraser, his wife, in conjunct fee, the lands of Cuikbirnes, which George Gordon of Nethermuir and his wife, Marjory Buchan, had resigned on June 25 ("Great Seal," Littlejohn's "Aberdeenshire Sheriff Court," ii., 505).

George Gordon married Marjorie Buchan. The 1670 MS. indicates that she belonged to the Auchmacoy family.

Whether he left any issue is far from clear.

#### **PATRICK GORDON, IV. OF NETHERMUIR.**

The origin of this laird is obscure. Pater-  
son ("History of Ayr," i., 220) states that George, the anti-Covenanting laird, was "succeeded by Patrick Gordon of Nether-  
muir, who married Anna Strachan"; but he does not say who this Patrick was. General Patrick Gordon of Auchleuchries seems to refer to Patrick, without naming him, as his "unkle." Under date July 13, 1686, he writes ("Diary," 149)—"Nethermuir, older and younger, went from hence [Aberdeen], I haveing given a factory for my effaires to my unkle and the younger Nethermuir," whose name was John, and whom the General calls his "cousin." Now it is true that General Patrick's father had a brother Patrick, but he was dead in 1643. If Patrick, IV.

Patrick Gordon, of Cults, described by General Patrick Gordon on January 12, 1694, as "my cousin," and constituted one of his procurators ("Diary," 181). In 1696 the lands of Patrick Gordon of Cults were valued at £134, the Poll Book noting "Patrick Gordon, of Cults, elder, with his ladie," and their sons, Patrick and William, and their daughters Jean and Elizabeth. It is not quite clear whether this Patrick, elder, was the husband or the son of the husband of Janet Gordon. James Gordon, "son of Patrick of Cults and Janet," "ex Neathermure," born Nov. 15, 1659, entered Douai College on Oct. 18, 1677, for grammar (Forbes Leiths's "Scots Colleges" i., 54). We know a little about the son,

William Gordon, who is referred to in a letter written by General Patrick Gordon to the laird of Rothiemay from Moscow, Aug. 8, 1691, as "ein Sohn von Patrick Gordon von Cults" ("Tagebuch," iii., 294). He may be the William Gordon, merchant, Aberdeen, who presented the sasine of Elizabeth Grant, "Lady Auchleuchries," on Oct. 6, 1692 ("Diary," 213).

### **GEORGE GORDON, III. OF NETHERMUIR.**

George Gordon was the eldest son of Patrick Gordon, being so described ("filius primogenitus") in the "Great Seal," January 30, 1623. The following transactions refer to him:—

1622—George Gordon, son of Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir, was a witness ("Aberdeen Minute Book of Registrations").

1629, October 1—Dame Jane Abernethie, wife of Sir George Gordon of Gight, renounced her rights to the lands of Cuikbirnes and pendicle thereof called Tillibrek,

in the parish of Logie Buchan, which had been conveyed by her husband to George Gordon of Nethermuir, and also her rights to the lands of Meanie and others in the parish of Belhelvie, which had been conveyed in warrandice of the lands first mentioned (Littlejohn's "Aberdeenshire Sheriff Court," ii., 314).

1633, July 24—George Gordon of Nethermuir brought an action, the nature of which is not disclosed, against John Mar in Wattishill (Ibid. ii., 372).

1633—Unlike his brother and sister, he figures in the Book of Annual-rentaris ("Spalding Club Misc.," iii., 81, 98, 102, 136) as a debtor, and not a creditor. He owed 500 merks to his sisters, Anne and Janet; 1000 merks to John Chessor in Gullie; 500 merks to Mr Robert Lumsden of Auchinleck; and 700 merks to William Gerrel in Little Byth.

1634, April 16—George Gordon of Nethermuir brought an action against Andrew Clark in Kirkhill. Three Acts of Court of the Pursuer's lands of Birness were founded on, dated 1631 and 1633 (Ibid. ii., 393).

1637, February 27—George Gordon of Nethermuir brought an action for rent against David Pratt at the New Mill of Balquhenzeachie. The defender was, or had been, tenant of the lands of Knaven, for the rent and duties of which in the year 1635 and 1636 there was decree (Littlejohn's "Sheriff Court," ii., 435).

1637, July 28—George Gordon of Nethermuir brought an action against James Guthrie in Old Aberdeen, getting decree for 20 merks, being the "pryce of two kye coft and resavit" (Ibid. ii., 444).

1639, Aug. 19—George Gordon of Nethermuir as Sheriff Depute executed at Auchleuchries a commission, whereby Marjorie Gordon, wife of James Ogilvie of Auchleuchries, renounced her rights to the Mains

and in my possession at the time of my decease, with full power to the said Mr William Dingwall to discharge all bills, endorsed, blank, and lying by me, and uplift the sums therein contained, he subscribing an inventory of the said bills.

"And seeing [that] the said Mr William Dingwall and James Brodie of Muiresk their tochers are paid them and their discharges retired, and that my two youngest daughters are not yet provided, I do therefor leave and bequeath to Mary Gordon, my third daughter, the sum of three thousand pounds Scots due by James Gordon of Ellon and James Catenach, merchant in Aberdeen, by bond, with which I am to give her ane assignation burdened with this special provision payable only to her at the first term of Whitsunday or Martinmas within year and day of her lawful marriage, she always marrying with advice and consent of two of the nearest of kin on father and mother's side; and, failing of her by decease unmarried, not only the said sum, but also the sum of a thousand pounds money foresaid due by the said Mr William Dingwall, and likewise provided to her shall belong to the heirs of the body of the said George Gordon; and which failing, to my executors equally amongst them.

"And moreover I leave to Christian Gordon, my youngest daughter, the sum of 1700 pounds Scots due by a bill drawn by William Keith of Bruxie and accepted by James Gordon, Ardmely, merchant, and endorsed by the said William Keith to me; as also I leave to her the sum of two hundred fourty two pounds due by Alexander Gordon of Auchmunziel to me by bill; and I ordain the said Mr William Dingwall, my executor, to add as much thereto out of my executry as will make up to her the sum of four thousand merks money foresaid, payable to her in the terms of her sister's provision above mentioned, and, failing of her, to go according to the foresaid designation.

"And whenever all or any part of the sums above mentioned shall happen to be raised, I appoint the said Mr William Dingwall to settle the same again upon land, bond, or other good security in the terms and according to the destinations above written.

"And moreover I appoint the said Mary and Christian Gordons to have the plenishing of two of my chambers; and because the said Mr William Dingwall will be put to trouble and expence in selling and uplifting the execruty and debts, I leave to himself a thousand pounds Scots worth of the said execruty, and the rest to be equally divided amongst my four daughters at the sight and advice of Alexander Gordon, my brother, and Alexander Gordon, of Barrack, and the heirship moveables to be disposed on for my son's behoof.

"And seeing James Brodie, of Muiresk, is due me by a bond and a bill the sum of 2200 pounds Scots, I leave to himself the one-half thereof, he providing the yearly rent of the said half to his wife for mailing a house to her in case she survive him, and the other half to be paid to the heirs of my son's body, at the first term of Martinmas or Whit-sunday after the decease of Lillias Forbes, grandmother to the said James Brodie, and to be free of annual rent till that time; and in case my said son be not then able to receive the same nor have children, then the said half is to divide equally among all my daughters, and in respect my son is due me the sum of 3000 merks by bond, I appoint the said bond to be delivered up to him in lieu of the former heirship moveables.

"And seeing my brother William is a poor dispirited man and not able to gain his own living, I appoint each of my four daughters to pay him yearly during his life out of their shares of my execruty five pounds Scots, etc."

John Gordon married, before 1696, Elizabeth Gordon ("Poll Book," ii., 10). She

**JOHN CORDON, V. OF  
NETHERMUIR.**

**Died 1725.**

John Gordon of Nethermuir was the son of Patrick Gordon, and served heir of his brother Patrick ("junioris de Nethermuir") on March 24, 1683. John Gordon, as "junior of Nethermuir," was made an honorary burgess of Aberdeen Oct. 23, 1682 ("New Spalding Club Misc.", ii. (452). He was a Commissioner of Supply for Aberdeenshire May 13, 1685; April 27, and May 21, 1689; and June 4, 1690 ("Acts of Parliament of Scotland," viii., 467: ix., 72, 84, 143).

On July 15, 1692, he was granted sasine on the lands of Old Maud, and on August 12, 1701, on Nethermuir.

He and Alexander Forbes of Auchreddie were the Commissioners to take up the Poll Tax of 1696 in the parish of Auchreddie. "The said John Gordon hath of valued rent in Nythermoor £153, and in Old Mad £266 13s 4d." The farms on the estate were Mains of Nethermuir, Wester Barrack, Mains of Old Mad, Windkitchiehill, and Mill of Old Mad, Pitposkie, Gowkhill, Drymure, and Glekhorne.

He was a close friend and confidant of his "cousin," the famous General Patrick Gordon of Auchleuchries, whom he met at Auchleuchries June 28, 1686 ("Diary of Patrick Gordon," 146); and at Aberdeen, July 13, 1686 (*Ibid.* 149). The General wrote to him from Moscow, Dec. 12, 1691 ("Tagebuch des General Patrick Gordon," iii., 295), on Sept. 26, 1692 (iii., 323), and from Archangel, June 2, 1694 (iii., 349). On January 11, 1692, the General gave John Gordon of Nethermuir, "my cousin," Patrick Gordon, of Cults, and James Gordon of Westerton, "my uncle," power of attorney in regard to his estate of Auchleuchries, and to Nethermuir and Cults, a factory, dated January 12, 1694 ("Diary," 178, 181).

John Gordon died February 4, 1725, as stated in his will, which was signed at Nethermuir, July 2, 1724, in presence of Andrew Ironside, his servant, and James Innes in Barrack. The inventory was given up by his executor, Mr William Dingwall of Brucklay, and the will was confirmed, May 15, 1725, with Alexander Gordon of Auchmunziell as cautioner.

The apprising of his cattle, horse, and sheep, made by Robert Annand in Clockcairn, James Innes in Barrack, George Oliphant in Pitforthie, and James Ironside in Knaven, amounted to £274 18s 4d Scots. The insight and plenishing of the defunct's house of Nethermuir, including the heirship, moveables, arms, books, and clothes—excluding the plenishing of the defunct's chambers, specially legate to Mary and Christian Gordon, two of his daughters—amounted to 500 merks.

Debts were due to the defunct by James Brodie, of Muiresk; James Gordon, of Ardmallie, merchant in Aberdeen,—who, though a Banffshire laird, had become heir portioner, through his wife, of the lands of Logie in Crimond, and who died in 1723; Alexander Gordon, of Auchmunziell, whose own will was confirmed June 30, 1727; John Fordyce of Gask, who died in 1729 or 1730; Arthur Muirison, of Kidshill, Andrew Low in Barrack, and others.

The actual text of the will runs as follows:—"I, John Gordon, of Nethermuir, taking into consideration my present broken health and the absence and misfortune of my son George Gordon, do therefor, to prevent all differences among my children after my decease, make my Latter Will and Testament in manner following:—

"In the first place, I nominate and appoint Mr William Dingwall of Brucklay, my executor and full intromitter with my whole debts, sums of money, goods, gear whatsoever, as well as outsight as insight due

Knaven, the sasine being registered Oct. 10, 1673 ("Register of Sasines"). They had at least four sons—

1. Patrick Gordon: described as "junior a Nethermoor." He was at King's College in 1674 (P. J. Anderson's "Roll and Alumni in Arts of the University and King's College of Aberdeen," p. 38). His inventory states that he "died at sea in the month of May, 1682" ("Edinburgh Commissariot"). I think there can be little doubt that he was the Patrick Gordon, "President Haddo's cousin and servant," who went down in the frigate "Gloucester" (56 guns) in which the Duke of York was wrecked off the Yorkshire coast on May 6, 1682 (Fountainhall's "Historical Observes of Memorial Occurrents," p. 68). The Duke, it may be remembered, was returning to Scotland (from which he had been withdrawn in the previous March) to fetch his duchess. He started on May 3, and three days later the vessel was wrecked on a sandbank and was totally lost. The Duke, and as many of his followers as could be put into the boats, were saved. The yachts in company with the "Gloucester" sent their boats and picked up many of the men, including Sir John Berry, the captain, who stayed on the ship till the last, but notwithstanding every exertion 150 of the ship's company, besides several young noblemen, were drowned, although Sir George Gordon of Haddo escaped. Berry (1635-90) was acquitted, but the pilot, a man named Aird, of Borrowstounness, was condemned to imprisonment for life, for it was shown that he had gone to sleep and given wrong directions to the steersman. Gordon's inventory was given up by John Gordon, "brother german to the defunct and only executor dative deemed as nearest of kin to him by decreet, dated June, 1682." Debts were due by Thomas Mon-

creiff of that Ilk and the deceased — Lindsay of Mount: "2000 merks contained in a decree obtained by the said deceased Patrick as executor dative conformed to the deceased William Lockhart of Tarbroks [apparently the brother of Anna, Countess of Aberdeen] before the Lords of Covenant and Session against the said persons on 29 March, 1682." Debts were also due by James Hamilton of Dalzell; Sir James Hamilton, firar of Orbistoun; Robert Hamilton, of Munkland; Alexander Durham, of Duntarvie; Alexander Durham, of Largo; Alexander Menzies, of Culter-rawes; James Menzies, of Herperfield; Gavin Hamilton, of Raploch; William Lindsay, of Covington, and others. The sum of "debts awand to dead" was £13,238 18s. The will was confirmed 16 June, 1682, Arthur Udny, merchant burgess of Edinburgh, being cautioner ("Edinburgh Commissariat," vol. 77).

2. John Gordon, V. of Nethermuir.
3. William Gordon was living with his father, Patrick, at Nethermuir in 1696 ("Poll Book," ii., 10). He was granted sasine in an annual rent of the lands of Wartle, Aug. 20, 1696 ("Register of Sasines.") His brother John refers to him in his will, 1724, as "a poor dispirited man and not able to gain his own living: I appoint each of my four daughters to pay him yearly during his life out of their shares of my executry five pounds Scots."
4. Alexander Gordon, Mill of Aberdour, and founder of the family of Gordon of Aberdour. His son John ultimately became laird of Nethermuir.

must be the daughter of James Gordon of Rothiemay, who, according to the Balbithan MS., married "— Gordon of Nethermuir." She is said to have died in 1699, and her husband appears to have married Mary Cumming as his second wife in 1700 ("Name of Dingwall Fordyce," 1885, p. 154). He had one son and four daughters:—

1. George Gordon, is mentioned in the Poll Book, 1696.

2. Anna Gordon, baptised May 28, 1689. Anna, Countess of Aberdeen (who was a daughter of George Lockhart of Tarbrax), and Lady Christy Grant being godmothers ("Name of Dingwall Fordyce," 1885, p. 153). She married October 25, 1711, William Dingwall, the first laird of Brucklay (born in 1676?), who was the son of Arthur Dingwall, of Brownhill, in the parish of Monquhitter (*Ibid.*, p. 66). A gravestone in the churchyard of New Deer records that "William Dingwall of Brucklay, Esq., also his lady, Ann Gordon of Nethermuir, died in one week in May, 1733, leaving six sons and three daughters all under age. As a Justice of the Peace he was a zealous Protector of his Neighbours and the Poor from every specious [sic] of Fraud and Oppression" (Henderson's "Aberdeenshire Epitaphs," i., 407):

(1) William Dingwall, II. of Brucklay, born 1719, became a surgeon in the army. He was known as "The Miser." He died unmarried, March 27, 1803 (Henderson's "Epitaphs," i., 407).

(2) Arthur Dingwall, jeweller, London: died unmarried August 22, 1786.

(3) John Dingwall, III. of Brucklay, baptised January 22, 1724. He made an ample fortune as a jeweller in London, and succeeded his brother William. He resided mostly in Croydon. He married Patience Huddart and died without issue, May 28, 1812, leaving £250,000

(“Name of Dingwall Fordyce,” 1885, p. 58), and was succeeded by his grand-nephew, John Dingwall.

(4) Alexander Dingwall, cabinetmaker, London : appears to have died in the end of 1779.

(5) Patrick Dingwall: nothing seems known about him.

(6) Lucretia Dingwall: married, as his first wife, about 1737, her cousin, William Dingwall, afterwards of Culsh, the factor on the estate of Brucklay. She had one son:

John Dingwall (1738-1788), stocking manufacturer and baillie of Aberdeen. He married, 1763, Magdalen, eldest daughter of William Duff, of Corsindae, and had seven sons and a daughter. The fifth son was

John Dingwall (1770-1833), jeweller, London, who succeeded as IV. of Brucklay in 1812. He married, Nov. 6, 1813, his distant kinswoman, Mary, daughter of William Gordon, of Aberdour. They had

John Duff Dingwall, V. of Brucklay, who died 1840 without issue. The estate of Brucklay fell to the descendants of Jean Fordyce, the second wife of his great grandfather, William Dingwall.

3. Elizabeth Gordon, mentioned in the Poll Book, 1696, married James Brodie of Muiresk.

4. Mary Gordon, mentioned in her father's will, 1724.

5. Christian Gordon: not mentioned in the Poll Book, but noted in her father's will, 1724. She married her kinsman, John Gordon of Nethermuir.

One of the fifth laird of Nethermuir's daughters was, I take it, the mother of

James Perry (1756-1821), the famous editor of “The Morning Chronicle,” London. Mr Alexander Dingwall For-

dyce in his "Family Record of the Name of Dingwall Fordyce," 1885, says (p. 58) that Perry was the "cousin" of John Dingwall of Brucklay (1724-1812)—"his [Perry's] mother having been a Miss Gordon of Nethermuir." On the other hand, Pryse Gordon ("Memoirs," i., 254), who says that "Perry's family in Aberdeenshire was highly respectable, and especially on his mother's side he was well connected"—speaks of "his grand uncle" as "the late Mr D—, of St James's Street," the latter being the aforesaid John Dingwall, III. of Brucklay, who was a jeweller in St James's Street.

Perry is usually given as the son of an (unnamed) builder, spelling his name Pirie. There certainly were Piries in the Aberdour district. He was born in Aberdeen on Oct. 30, 1756. His father failed, and Perry had to earn his own living, which he did in turn as a draper's assistant, an actor, and a clerk in Manchester. He went to London in 1777, and wrote for the "General Advertiser" and the "London Evening Post." On this position "he toiled with the greatest assiduity, and during the trials of the two admirals Keppel and Palliser, he sent up daily from Portsmouth eight columns of evidence, the publication of which raised the sale of the 'General Advertiser' to a total of several thousands each day." He founded the "European Magazine," 1782; and he edited the "Gazetteer" for eight years. About 1789 he and a Banff man, James Gray, purchased the "Morning Chronicle." A full account of his journalistic career will be found in the "Dictionary of National Biography."

Perry died at Brighton Dec. 5, 1821, and was buried in the family vault at Wimbledon. On the east side of the

south aisle is an inscription (Bartlett's "Wimbledon," p. 83)—"Erected by the Fox Club to the memory of James Perry, Esq., Proprietor and Editor of 'The Morning Chronicle,' in testimony of the zeal, courage, and ability with which he advocated the principles of civil and religious liberty, and of the talent and integrity by which he mainly contributed to convert the daily press into a great moral instrument, always devoted by him to the support of the oppressed and the promotion of public and private virtue. He was born the 30th of October, 1756, and died the 5th of December, 1821." His will, written on 19 sheets of foolscap, was made on April 4, 1819, with a codicil, Nov. 18, 1821. It was proved Dec. 19, 1821. The D.N.B. says he died worth £130,000. He left his nephew in law, Thomas Bentley, and his brother in law, Major William Hull, as his executors. He married, Aug. 23, 1798, Anne Hull, sister of Major William Hull. She died at Bordeaux, February, 1815. He had eight children (D.N.B.); in the will, the following are mentioned:—

- i. William Perry, alive, 1819.
- ii. Sir Thomas Erskine Perry (1806-82), Indian judge, born July 20, baptised Oct. 11, 1806, at Wimbledon, the sponsors being the Rt. Hon. Thomas Lord Erskine, Lord High Chancellor of England, the Rev. Mathew Raine, D.D., of the Charterhouse, and Mrs Margaret Anderson (Bartlett's "Wimbledon," 155). He is dealt with in the "Dictionary of National Biography." He married (1) in 1834, Louisa, only child of James M'Elkiney, of Brighton, and niece of Mme. Jerome Bonaparte; she died Oct. 12, 1841. He married (2) June 6, 1855, Elizabeth Margaret (who is still alive), second daughter of

Sir John Vanden-Bempde-Johnstone, bart., and sister of Harcourt, 1st Lord Derwent (born 1829: created 1881); and had

a. Edwin Charles Perry, born 1858.

b. Hilda Perry, born 1860; married 1889, Alastair Grant.

c. Helen Perry, born 1865; married 1891, E. G. W. Phillips.

iii. James Perry. A raised tomb in the east end of the churchyard of Wimbledon bears this inscription (Bartlett's "Wimbledon," p. 89)—"In memory of James Perry, Captain in the 15th Regiment of Native Infantry on the Bengal Establishment and Adjutant and Quarter-Master General of the Invalids at Chunar: a station to which he was appointed as a reward for his bravery in the assault and capturing of Agra, where he was severely wounded. He died at Chunar on 1st January, 1806, aged 29 years, deeply and universally regretted. Also of John Perry [iv], who died 21 August, 1806, aged 22 months. They were both sons of James Perry, Esqr., of Merton in this parish."

v. Ann Horatio Perry: married between 1819 and 1821, John Crawford.

vi. Esther Perry.

vii. Joan Perry.

viii. Catherine Ann Perry.

Miss Perry, the sister of the Editor: married (1) — Lunan; (2) Nov., 1796, Richard Porson, the famous Greek scholar. She died April 12, 1797 ("D.N.B.").

**GEORGE GORDON, "OF  
NETHERMUIR."**

**Died 1768.**

George Gordon remains a mystery. He was the son of Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir, and figures in the Poll Book of 1696. According to the "London Magazine," he must have been born in 1688. His father in his will, July 2, 1724, refers to the "absence and misfortune of my son George Gordon." What that "misfortune" was is a mystery. His "absence" was in London. It will be noted that he was passed over in his father's will, any legacies going to the heirs of his body. He does not figure in the Services of Heirs, and does not seem to have really held the estate of Nethermuir at all. Paterson ("History of Ayr," i., 220) says he died without succession about 1731. As a matter of fact he died on February 15, 1768. We are indebted for the information to the "London Magazine" (vol. 37, p. 118), in the following terms:—

"George Gordon of the Middle Temple, late of Nethermuir in North Britain, Esq. [died Feb. 15, 1768], aged near eighty; a gentleman of primitive [sic] honour and integrity, great erudition, remarkable for his profound knowledge of the laws and constitution of this kingdom, and not less so for his amiable and beneficent behaviour in private life. His writings in the cause of liberty have enlightened and improved thousands, though the name of this benefactor to the public as an author was known only to his particular friends."

The death was announced in the "Gazetteer" of Feb. 17, 1768—"On Monday, George Gordon, Esq. of the Middle Temple," and in the "Gentleman's Magazine" (vol. 38, p. 94)—"George Gordon, Esq., of the Middle Temple."

Turning to Somerset House in search of information, we get his will which he made without witnesses on February 12, 1768, three days before his death. Nothing is said about Nethermuir in it: he is described as "George Gordon, Esq., of the Middle Temple." It is a very brief document, in which he says—"As I have been for many years chiefly supported by the proprietors of the 'London Magazine,' who have always shown to me not only justice but often such generosity," he left them the proceeds of his writings, and nominated as his executor Richard Baldwin, bookseller, Paternoster Row, the publisher of the magazine. On February 17, two days after his death, Edward Kimber, in the parish of St Bride's,—apparently the poor literary hack (1719-1769), who was the son of Isaac Kimber (1692-1755)—and Samuel Selfe proved that the handwriting of the will was that of Gordon, and on February 19 the will was proved, minus details, by Baldwin.

Gordon was not a barrister—the books of the Middle Temple do not contain his name: nor was he buried in the Temple Church.

So you see the mystery attaching to him tends to deepen the more we know of him, although but for the "London Magazine" obituary we would not know that George Gordon, of the Middle Temple, and George Gordon of Nethermuir were one and the same man.

Let us try and reconstruct his story. It is clear from his father's will that he had left Nethermuir before 1724. He may have been one of the two George Gordons who were at King's College in 1701 and 1704, or one of the four who were at Marischal College in 1701, 1709 (2), and 1711.<sup>1</sup> The Rev. William Adams, minister of New Deer, tells me he has been unable to find any reference to Gordon in the records of the church. One

wonders whether the following was his “misfortune” :—

“Mr [John] Webster complained to the Presbytery of Old Deer at Crimond, Sept. 5, 1710, that George Gordon in his parish [New Deer] came to the church in tyme of service on a week day and used some unbecoming and scandalous carriage, especially in words in the hearing of both the minister and the people.”

“Att Aberdeen, Oct. 5, 1710, it was reported that George Gordon refused to submit to the Presbytery sentence.” Gordon was then living at Tarves.

Gordon was called to the Scots Bar in 1713, being described (by Mylne) as “yr. of Neathermuir.” He appears in his father’s will in 1724. His career between that date and 1768 remains a mystery.

He did not succeed to the estate, and would seem to have become a literary hack in London, “chiefly supported by the ‘London Magazine,’ ” and living as the subtenant of some barrister in the Middle Temple, just as men do at the present day.

His contributions to the “London Magazine,” appearing as it did in the days of anonymity, are not recognisable. What, then, were “his writings in the cause of liberty” which “enlightened and improved thousands, though the name of this benefactor to the public as an author was known only to his particular friends”? Turning to the British Museum Catalogue, we find several writers named George Gordon writing about the time he was alive, one of them doing so anonymously. In one of the anonymous books, “The History of our National Debts and Taxes,” 1751, some one has written in a contemporary hand on the title page the words—“By George Gordon,” author of “The Annals of Europe.” This is probably our George, though the book was not issued by the publisher of his beloved “London Magazine.”

"The Annals of Europe" is a very interesting compilation which was the ancestor of "The Annual Register," and of a host of modern annuals like "Whitaker's Almanack" and "Hazell's Annual." It was first issued in 1740 with the following title:—

"The Annals of Europe for the year 1730: being a methodical and full account of all the remarkable occurrences which happened within that year, either at home or abroad: with copies or extracts of the most important Treaties and other public papers, and an abstract of the most remarkable pamphlets published within that period. To be continued and from thenceforth published annually as soon as possible after the expiration of the preceding year." London: printed for George Hawkins at Milton's Head, between the two Temple Gates, Fleet Street: 2 vols., 8vo.: vol. i. (1740), pp. xxvi. + 453: vol. ii. (1741), pp. xviii. + 514.

It must have proved a success, for this edition was followed by editions in the following years:—

- For 1740: published 1742: pp. xii. + 580.
- For 1741: published 1742: pp. xii. + 514.
- For 1742: published 1745: pp. xvi. + 556.
- For 1743: published 1745: pp. xvi. + 588.

One is much struck by the independent attitude of the (anonymous) editor. In the preface to the 1730 edition he says:—

"I think I cannot do a greater service to my country, or indeed to mankind, than to collect and publish yearly, in an historical method, such accounts of all the important transactions of the present age as I shall be able to procure. For, though I cannot take all the freedom that, I hope, will be taken by future historians, with the vicious actions or politicks of the present age, yet I may, perhaps, now and then fall upon some method of giving such hints as may raise the curiosity of the publick and make them enquire particularly into what is so hinted

at; and by having my publick collection interleaved and bound up with clean paper, it will be so easy for every gentleman to write private remarks and memoirs of his own, that I hope posterity may be thereby enabled to come at the real Truth, and to see every material transaction of this Age in a full, clear, and genuine light.

"As many things are published in our newspapers at the request, and often at the expence, of the Parties concerned, and as something of this kind may hereafter be desired of me, I think myself obliged . . . to give notice that no such thing is to be expected even by those who are my best Friends. I shall think myself very much obliged to every gentleman that will take the trouble to send me an account of any important occurrence or the copy of any material paper: but those who do me this favour will, I hope, pardon me if I do not publish the account exactly as they send it, or, if I omit giving a place in my 'Annals' to every paper communicated to me for that purpose."

The "Annals" are very carefully compiled, but so far as I have examined them, they contain nothing to identify the compiler except, perhaps, a long account of a destructive thunder-and-lightning storm at Grantfield (now Midmar) Castle.

This series was followed by a more original work entitled:—

"The History of our National Debts and Taxes. From the year MDCLXXXVIII to the present year MDCCCLI." London, 1751; printed for Mr Cooper at the Globe, in Paternoster Row: part i., 88pp. : part ii., 164pp., price 2/-; part iii., 144pp., price 2/-: part iv., 185pp., price 2/6.

The outlook of the author may be gauged from the following prefatory note:—

"I hope it [the book] will establish a maxim observed by all wise Nations, but

exploded by all wicked Ministers, that the annual Expence ought never to exceed the annual Revenue; and that, consequently, when an Increase of the former becomes necessary for securing or vindicating the Honour or Rights of a Nation, the latter ought to be increased in proportion, if necessary, even to the utmost the people can spare from their daily subsistence. It will likewise, I hope, establish another maxim, that when the rich men of any country (who in all free countries must have the government in their hands) endeavour to spare themselves by taxing the Poor, they will always at last find themselves disappointed, and in the meantime will ruin the Trade and Credit of the country."

A second edition of the book appeared, with an index, in 1753.

I have said that Gordon in producing "The Annals of Europe" was a pioneer of a certain type of annual. I wonder if he was the same Gordon who was a pioneer of Parliamentary reporting. Mr Albert von Ruville, the (German) biographer of "William Pitt, Earl of Chatham" (1907), tells us (vol. i., p. 118):—

"Before we consider Pitt's maiden speech, it must be observed that the traditional account of the Parliamentary debates is exceedingly defective. A short time before, as we have observed, the reporting of speeches was strictly forbidden, and rhetorical achievements could be rescued from oblivion only by indirect means. From 1737 the well-known author, Dr Johnson, a contemporary of Pitt, who also studied at Oxford, collected speeches for the "Gentlemen's Magazine." He was then followed by a Scottish ecclesiastical official, Mr Gordon, who reproduced the speeches in the "London Magazine" [started in 1732]. Notes of these were gathered in a coffee house near Westminster frequented by members, or if the editor could gain admittance to the gallery

he wrote down as quickly as possible from memory what he heard. Hence Pitt's speeches have come down to us in a most defective form which cannot be regarded as authentic."

This is really an expanded paraphrase of the statement in Almon's "Life of Chatham" (i., 141), in which the reporter is described as "a Mr Gordon, a minister of the Church of Scotland": while Lord Rosebery ("Chatham," p. 493) describes him as "a Scottish clergyman named Gordon." I may note that when the Rev. Alexander Carlyle of Inveresk went to London about the Window Tax, he visited "Dr Gordon, of the Temple, a Scotch solicitor at law." He gives the date ("Autobiography, 1910 ed., p. 325) as 1769, but this may be a slip for 1768, and the "Dr" may have been our friend George Gordon, "of the Middle Temple," who, as I have shown, was called to the Scots Bar in 1713. It would be extremely interesting to know that George Gordon of Nethermuir was a pioneer of Parliamentary reporting, for James Perry (1756-1821), whose mother is said to have been a "Miss Gordon of Nethermuir," introduced to the "Gazetteer," of which he became editor, "a succession of reporters for the parliamentary debates, so as to procure their prompt publication in an extended form. By this arrangement, the paper came out next morning with as long a chronicle of the debates as used to appear in other papers on the following evening or later."

#### **JOHN CORDON, VI. OF NETHERMUIR.**

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In his "History of Ayr" (i., 221), James Paterson states that "George Gordon of Nethermuir, dying without issue, was succeeded by [John Gordon] the grandson of James, third son of Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir." John Gordon was certainly the next heir male after George, but, as I

have stated, the latter never seems to have held Nethermuir. This came to John long before George's death.

John Gordon was the son of Alexander Gordon, Mill of Aberdour, who was the son of James Gordon, which James was the younger son of Patrick Gordon, II. of Nethermuir. He seems to have come into Nethermuir through his marriage with his kinswoman Christian Gordon, daughter of John Gordon of Nethermuir, and sister of the aforesaid George.

According to his will, John Gordon "deceased upon the tenth day of August last by past," that is 1732. An account of his funeral expenses "has been preserved" (Henderson's "Aberdeenshire Epitaphs," i., 409) :—

Imp. To a phisitian .....	£2	2	0
It[em] To a surgeon .....	1	3	8
It. For a coffin and mortcloth and charges to the church officer... .	1	10	10
It. Spent in entertaining the gentlemen at James Gerart's after the buriel .....	0	7	6
It. To the servt for bying small necessors at that time and to the poor people .....	0	6	8
It. To Mrs Craig, the baker, per account .....	1	0	0
It. To Mr Forrest, merchant, for vine, per account .....	2	8	4
It. To the price of the relick's mournings, per two discharged accounts .....	5	3	11
It. For mutton and some other things .....	0	5	0

£14 7 11

The inventory of his goods, gear and debts was given up by Christian Gordon, "relict of the said defunct and executrix dative to him conform to decret pronounces thereanent of date 28 September last," 1732.

The inventory consisted of the insight and plenishing of the defunct's house, which, after setting apart the heirship moveables, was valued at £311 17s Scots: one third belonged to the widow in virtue of the contract of marriage made between them dated March 1, 1731. "Item, the sum of 2000 merks, contained in a bond by the deceased Sir Samuel Forbes of Foveran and Sir Alexander Forbes, "now of Foveran, his son, to Alexander Gordon, at Miln of Aberdour, formerly in Oldmad, dated 18 June, 1710, etc., to which the defunct had right by virtue of an assignation granted to him by the said Alexander Gordon, his father, dated 8 February, 1731.

"Item 1200 merks, still resting of the principal sum of 2000 merks, contained in a bond, granted by Alexander Thomson of Faichfield, with consent of Sir James Dunbar of Durn, his sole curator, to the said Christian Gordon, therein designed daughter to the deceased John Gordon, of Nethermuir, dated 17 June, 1725, and whereunto the deceased had right by virtue of the contract of marriage above mentioned.

"Item £1207 14s Scots due to the defunct by Mr Arthur Forbes of Shivas, in virtue of a minute of sale made betwixt them for the town and lands of Cairncummar and pendicle of Kidshall, commonly called Netherhill, dated 2 October, 1731.

"Item £1366 13s 4d Scots due to said defunct by Christian, Margaret, Jean, and Marjory Wilsons, lawful daughters to the deceased George Wilson of Fincask.

"Item £153 15s Scots due to him by Mr William Dingwall of Brucklay [his brother-in-law], the first owner of that property of the name of Dingwall.

"Item £40 due by James Urquhart, merchant in Fraserburgh, and 168 merks due by William Abernethie of Crimmonogatt.

"Item £460 Scots due by Alexander Gordon of Barrack.

"Item 50 merks due to the said Christian Gordon, by Thomas and Andrew Arbuthnots, merchants in Peterhead."

The will also contains another copy of the inventory with a Bond of Cautionary by Alexander Gordon at Miln of Aberdour, "for Christian Gordon, relict of the deceast John Gordon of Nethermuir my son." Dated at Nethermuir, 12 April, 1733: witnessed by "Alexander Gordon of Barrack and Alexander Gordon [I. of Aberdour], lawful son of the said Alexander Gordon at Miln of Aberdour." By the Edict, the "foresaid Christian Gordon and William Gordon, only child procreated between her and her said husband, are warned to appear before the Commissary Court and hear and see the Executors Dative decerned to her said deceased husband;" with execution of the said edict: confirmed, 18 April, 1733.

John Gordon married (marriage contract March 1, 1731), as stated, his kinswoman as Christian Gordon, fourth and youngest daughter of John Gordon of Nethermuir, under whose will, 1724, she was a beneficiary. She had an only child

William Gordon, VIII. of Nethermuir.

#### **WILLIAM GORDON, VII. OF NETHERMUIR.**

William Gordon was the son of John Gordon, of Nethermuir, to whom he was served heir general Dec. 6, 1760. He was factor to Henrietta, Duchess of Gordon ("Aberdeen Journal," April 20, 1761), and died at Coclarrachie June 16, 1771 ("Aberdeen Journal," June 24, 1771). He made his will July 17, 1767, nominating Hugh Forbes of Schivas and Alexander Gordon of Aberdour tutors and curators of his eldest son John. The will was registered in the Commissary Court Books, Aberdeen, July 4, 1771, and

confirmed February 7, 1775, Alexander Duthie, advocate, Aberdeen, being cautioner. The inventory consisted of one share (£500) of the capital stock of the Banking Company of Aberdeen, and his son was constituted executor, being charged with all debts, legacies, and provisions to the testator's wife, Margaret Forbes, and her younger children ("Aberdeen Testaments").

Gordon's wife was Margaret Forbes, eldest daughter of Hugh Forbes of Schivas and sister of Mrs Alexander Irvine of Drum. In 1778 she was living on lease in a commodious house on the east side of the Gallowgate, Aberdeen: it had a garden and summerhouse and was advertised to be let ("Aberdeen Journal," February 9, 1778). She died at Nethermuir, July 2, 1801, and her will was recorded in the Aberdeen Commissary Court Record, August 12, 1801, her "second" daughter Jean being sole executor.

William Gordon had the following issue:—

1. John Gordon, VIII. of Nethermuir.  
 2. Maxwell Gordon, "second son": got £300 under his mother's will. He was admitted a Writer to the Signet, June 28, 1793, having been apprenticed (1) to Colquhoun Grant, and (2) to John Taylor. He married March 30, 1799, Jane, daughter of John Taylor, W.S., of Blackhouse, Ayrshire, and died at Boghall, Ayrshire, Dec. 24, 1809 ("Aberdeen Journal," January 3, 1810). He had

(1) John Taylor Gordon, IX. and last of Nethermuir.

(2) William Gordon, educated at Eton. He entered the Bombay Civil Service in 1817; was first assistant to the Collector and Magistrate at Broach, 1821, and then assistant to the Chief Secretary of the Government, in 1824. He was lost in returning home in 1824 on the "Barkworth," which was never heard of again.

(3) Maxwell Gordon. He seems to

have been the Maxwell who married Jane, youngest daughter of David Steuart of Steuartfield, April 21, 1821 ("Scots Magazine").

(4?) Son. "At Edinburgh Mrs Maxwell Gordon of a son, Feb. 19, 1805 ('Scots Magazine')."

(5?) Son. "At Edinburgh Mrs Maxwell Gordon of a son, June 29, 1806."

(6) George Alexander Gordon died April 16, 1886, at Blackhouse, Ayr ("Gent.'s Mag.", N.S., vol. i., p. 770). His brother, John Taylor Gordon, was served his heir of line and conquest general, July 21, 1873.

(7) James Gordon.

(8) Hugh Gordon, "youngest son," died at Greenfield, Nov. 12, 1811 ("Scots Mag.", vol. 73, p. 960).

(9) Jane Gordon (Information from Mrs John Taylor Gordon, Oct., 1900).

(10?) Daughter, born July 28, 1808 ("Scots Mag.")

3. Alexander Gordon, is mentioned in a bond of provision by his father, July 4, 1771 (Aberdeen Commissary Court Record). He entered the service of the Hon. East India Company (Madras) as capt. in 1782. He became an Infantry ensign on June 24, 1783; was serving on the Coromandel Coast in 1788; became lieutenant, Aug. 23, 1790; and died at Fort St George, Aug. 23, 1793 ("Aberdeen Journal," Feb. 24, 1794). He made his will at Pheyemey, July 10, 1793, whereby, subject to legacies, he left his estate to his mother. ("Gordons under Arms," No. 180).

4. Bathia Gordon got a bond of provision in her favour from her father, July 4, 1771 (Aberdeen Commissary Court Record). She got £700 stg. under her mother's will, 1801. She married John Orrok of that ilk; contract of marriage, Nov. 28, 1796 (*Ibid.*). John Orrok was the son of John Orrok

(died Nov. 16, 1796) and brother of Walter Orrok, who died in 1809, to whom he was served heir 1812. Charles Gordon was factor to the Orroks (factory granted Oct. 8, 1802), and there are various tacks by him registered in the Aberdeen Commissary Court Records under various dates—to Patrick Stewart, March 26, 1803; to John Riddel, April 15, 1803; to George Massie, June 3, 1803; to James Martin, and James Smith, Aug. 1, 1803; to Thomas Gibson, August 12, 1803; to William Charles, August 16, 1803; to James Gordon, August 18, 1803; to Alexander MacKay, August 26, 1803; to James Reid, June 5, 1804; and to James Wyness, June 29, 1804. John Orrok died October 6, 1823, and his wife Bathia died at Port Glasgow May 6, 1829 ("Aberdeen Journal"). I do not know whether they had any issue. At any rate, John Orrok was succeeded by his brother Walter (Temple's "Thanage of Fermartyn," p. 637).

5. Jean Gordon, "second daughter," is mentioned in a bond of provision by her father, registered July 4, 1771, while a bond and discharge by Mrs Bathia Orrok (her sister) "to Miss Jean Gordon" was registered January 11, 1802 ("Aberdeen Commissary Court Record"). She was executor of her mother's will, 1801.

6. Helen Gordon is also mentioned in a bond of provision by her father, registered July 4, 1771. She got £30 stg. under her mother's will, 1801.

#### **JOHN GORDON, VIII. OF NETHERMUIR.**

The eldest son of William, of Nethermuir, he was born in 1767. He was served heir general to his father, June 30, 1810, and heir of provision general to Patrick Garioch of Tulloch, June 13, 1789. He got £500 stg. under his mother's will, 1801. In 1804 the

valuation of Nethermuir was £306, the same figure as in 1741, as against £200 in 1674. He was one of the "company" at Peterhead in 1774 ("Aberdeen Journal," July 18, 1774). He was a Justice of the Peace, as the following curious item from the "Aberdeen Journal" reminds us:—

"At Old Deer, this seventh day of July, 1797, in presence of Robert Stevens, Crichtie; William Fraser of Park, Alexander Russel of Aden, Alexander Fraser of Strichen, Alexander Harvey of Broadland, James Cumine of Kininmonth, John Gordon of Nethermuir, and John Turner of Turnerhall, Esquires, Eight of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Aberdeen, of which the said Robert Stevens, Esq., was chosen Preses.

"It being represented to the said Justices that several Mad Dogs had appeared, and Bit many Dogs in Buchan, the said Justices order all proprietors of dogs within the boundaries of Buchan to shut up their dogs until the seventh of August next, with certification that if any dogs shall be found within that time at liberty, these dogs shall not only be killed, but the proprietor of them shall be fined with the utmost severity of the law; and appoint this advertisement to be read from the latron of every place of worship in Buchan, at least two Sabbaths, and to be insert in the "Aberdeen Journal" for two following weeks, that none may pretend ignorance, and that the public may be upon their guard, and give every aid to the Justices on this necessary occasion; and all Constables are desired to see that this order be strictly attended to within their bounds, and a premium shall be given to all those who shall kill any Dogs going at large.

[Signed] ROBERT STEVENS, Pres."

John Gordon was one of the assessors to the Rector of Marischal College in 1804, and a fairs juror in 1810.

He died unmarried at Nethermuir, January 11, 1836 ("Aberdeen Journal"), and was succeeded by his nephew.

### **JOHN TAYLOR GORDON, IX. AND LAST OF NETHERMUIR.**

John Taylor Gordon was the second son of Maxwell Gordon, W.S., and was born in 1801. He succeeded his father in 1809, and his uncle John, of Nethermuir, in 1836.

He was admitted a Writer to the Signet, Nov. 18, 1825, having been apprenticed to James Heriot. He succeeded through his mother to the estate of Blackhouse, Ayrshire, and inherited the lease of the Auchencairn coal mines. The Rev. Dr Charteris (in a letter quoted in the Rev. and Hon. Arthur Gordon's "Life of the Rev. A. H. Charteris," p. 56), gives this interesting biographical glimpse of him:—

"The third of the great parishioners [of St Quivox, Ayr] was John Taylor Gordon, of Blackhouse, who was by inheritance the lessee of the Auchencairn coalpits. He was a W.S. and not really trained in mining. He had been a foe of Mr A. H. Oswald [M.P., of Auchencruive], and had carried a lawsuit to the House of Lords against him on some petty dispute between them and won it. He came, however, and presided at the ordination dinner which Mr Oswald gave in my honour to the Presbytery of Ayr. He declared his desire to help me if he could, and from that day as long as he was in the parish he was my warm and steady friend. He sat in the Whitletts' gallery in church with his colliers massed behind him. He was a generous supporter of all good movements, and I found a warm welcome in his beautiful home. Reverses came and for a time stripped him of his wealth; but I was glad to know that he outlived them and found a flowing

tide of prosperity again. By that time he had left the parish."

After he worked out the Blackhouse collieries, which had long been carried on by his relative, George Taylor, he transferred his enterprise to Annbank, under the title of George Taylor and Company. He was a Conservative and was twice invited to contest the Ayr Burghs.

He sold Nethermuir in 1872 (it extended to 2298 acres in 1874) to Lord Provost William Leslie, Aberdeen (1802-79), who was the son of Alexander Leslie, mason in Auchreddie (1765-1842), and who was succeeded by his nephew, Mr John Dean Leslie (Henderson's "Epitaphs," i., 410). Curiously enough, Count John Edward Leslie of Balquhan met his death Aug. 19, 1844, when shooting on Bennachie (Aug. 12) with "his friend," Mr Gordon of Nethermuir. Gordon subscribed to the Aberdeen horse races in 1817, 1818, and 1819.

John Taylor Gordon died at Fairfield House, Monkton, Ayr, June 24, 1884, and his will was proved for over £100,000 ("Times," Oct. 4, 1884, p. 4).

He married, 1855, Margaret Grant, daughter of Robert Watson. In October, 1860, Mrs Gordon, "the lady of Nethermuir," laid the last keystone of the railway bridge at Cairncummer, Nethermuir, in "true Masonic style." The "Aberdeen Journal" (Oct. 24, 1860) says that her "workmanlike way of handling the hammer called forth the unbounded applause of the Masonic brethren who constructed the bridge, and who, along with many others, were witnesses of the ceremony." Mrs Gordon informed me (Oct. 23, 1900) that her husband "did not give much attention to genealogy, being content to know that he was a man of a really good family."

John Taylor Gordon was succeeded by his only son

John Maxwell Gordon.

### **JOHN MAXWELL GORDON.**

He was the only son of John Taylor Gordon, and was born July 8, 1862. He was sent to Eton in 1877 and entered the Ayrshire and Wigtown Militia as a second lieutenant, Nov. 26, 1879. On May 24, 1884, he got a lieutenancy in the 12th Lancers, becoming captain, Sept. 15, 1890. He retired June 3, 1896. When the South African war broke out he again took post, as adjutant of the 69th Battalion of the Imperial Yeomanry, serving in the Transvaal from March, 1900, till February, 1901, and being mentioned in despatches. On May 7 he became major of the Montgomeryshire Imperial Yeomanry.

He was a partner in George Taylor & Co., coalmasters, Annbank, Ayrshire, and in Bell, Rannie & Co., wine merchants, Edinburgh, but he was best known as a sportsman, the "Field" describing him (January 23, 1909) as "a popular personage on race courses, especially in the north." His colours, registered in 1889, were tartain and a yellow cap. He was elected a member of the National Hunt Committee in 1896, and as such frequently acted as steward of meetings at Manchester, Hooton Park, and elsewhere. Among his successful horses were "Karakoul," winner of the Grand Hurdle Race at Auteuil ; "Spinning Minnow" ; "Cheriton Bell," "Grandiflora," "Wolf," and others. His horse "Leybourne" won the Scottish Grand National in 1894, Arthur Nightingale, who rode it, describing it ("My Racing Adventures," p. 211) as "a nice safe conveyance which scored in a clever fashion." Gordon won the English Army Point-to-Point on "Peg the Rake," which a writer in the "Badminton Magazine" (Dec., 1907, p. 628) described as a "fine slashing thoroughbred." He owned a notable horse, "M'Crankie," which was illustrated in the "Badminton Magazine," Oct., 1907. At one time he was

a frequent rider in steeplechases; he was well-known in the hunt-field, and a keen polo player amongst military teams.

He died January 17, 1909, after a short illness, at Sunnyside, Princes Park, Liverpool, and was buried at Banbury Church, Terperley, Cheshire. His will was proved for £34,101.

He married in 1891 at Terperley, Mary, daughter of George Daglish, of Rockmount, Lancashire. His widow married in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, St Peter's, Cranlev Gardens, London, Nov. 28, 1912, Herbert, second son of the late Sir Edward Lawrence Major Gordon had two children:—  
("Times").

John Hector Maxwell Gordon, born Sept. 26, 1900; baptised in Edinburgh, Oct. 28, 1900.

— Daughter, born 1892.

